

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Similarity is judged with accuracy between images. Two image data sets are input to input means and metadata sets attached thereto are extracted. The metadata sets include characteristic information on objects included in images represented by the two image data sets. Object evaluation means calculates evaluation values representing similarity between the objects, based on the characteristic information. Image evaluation means calculates a similarity value between the two images, based on the evaluation values. Image classification means classifies the image data sets according to the similarity value and stores the image data sets in storage means together with a classification result.